Release of amount to Andhra Pradesh towards fertiliser subsidy

@ 1334. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount of Rs. 69 crores has been released to Andhra Pradesh Government towards the subsidy on fertilizers to supply the same to small and marginal farmers at pre-July 1991 prices;

(b) if so, how much of it has been lised;

(c) how much is yet *to* be spent; and

(d) what are the reasons for non-utilisation indicating the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) An amount of Rs. 69.275 crores was released to Andhra Pradesh under the Scheme on Fertiliser Subsidy for Small and Marginal Farmers in three installments i.e. Rs. 17.105, Rs. 34.210 and Rs. 17.960 crores respectively.

(b) The first instalment of Rs. 17.105 crores has been utilised.

(c) An amount of Rs. 52.170 crores is yet to be spent by the Stale Government.

(d) The reasons for non-utilisation are:—

(i) The scheme was taken up in the mid year and the first instalment was released on 16-9-1991.

(ii) The State Government took some time in finalising the modalities for implementng the scheme, and

(iii) For want of information from State Government about the utilisation of first installment, the second and third installments were released only on 25th and 31st March, 1992, resulting in its non-utilisation.

©Previously Unstarred Question 369, transferred from 30th April, 1992

Steps to check soil erosion

@@ 1335. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to wind and water, 6,000 million tons of top soil is eroded every year in India; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to stop such loss ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) According to the present estimates 5334 million tonnes of top soil is eroded every year.

(b) The major programme is undertaken by the State Government to reduce the soil loss by taking up appropriate soil conservation measures such as bunding, levelling. terracing, afforestation, horticulture development, treatment of drainage line, water harvesting structures etc. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through Centrally Sponsored Schemes wherein Soil and Water Conservation measures are undertaken.

Setting up of National Banana Research Centre in Assam

1336. SHRI BHANDRESWAR BURAGOHAIN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have forwarded clearance for setting up of a National Banana Research Centre of ICAR in Assam;

(b) if so, what is the site selected by the site selection team; and

(c) by when the centre is likely to start functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

@@Previously Unstarred Question 601 transferred from the 4th May, 1992,